

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWOLD.ANNUAL REPORT on the HEALTH of the BOROUGH of SOUTHWOLD
for the year 1946.

by
Alan A. Gilmour M.D. D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough
of Southwold.

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the
health of Southwold for the year 1946.

While the health of a community cannot be directly
assessed by its vital Statistics, these serve in some measure
as an indication of progress, or the reverse.

I have pleasure in acknowledging my indebtedness to
the Sanitary Inspector and all other Borough Officials for their
assistance during my first year as Medical Officer of Health for
the Borough.

General Statistics:-

Area in acres:- 624.
Registrar General's estimate of
the population (mid-1946):- 2,209.
No. of inhabited houses:- 1003.
Rateable value :- £24,365.

Vital Statistics:-

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Legitimate Live Births	36	19	17
Illegitimate Live Births	-	-	-
Total Live Births			
Legitimate & Illegitimate	36	19	17

Birth Rate.

per 1,000 resident population
16.3
(England & Wales 19.1)

Stillbirths:-

One stillbirth was notified
Rate per 1,000 population 0.45.
(England and Wales 0.53)

Deaths:-

<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
33	16	17

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population
14.94
(England and Wales 11.5)

Maternal Mortality:-

Nil.

Infantile Mortality:-

Deaths of infants under one year of age.

<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
2	1	1

this gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 55.5 per 1,000 live births.

<u>Causes of Death:-</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Heart Disease	5	10
Cancer	2	4
Pneumonia	2	-
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	1	-
Prematurity	1	-
Other causes	5	3

Total 33

Comparative Table for last three years.

	44.	45.	46.	E & W. 46.	London. 46.
Population	1511	1756	2209	-	-
Births	35	31	36	-	-
Birth Rate per 1,000	23.16	17.6	16.3	19.1	21.5
Deaths	32	41	33	-	-
Death Rate per 1,000	21.2	23.34	14.94	11.5	12.7
Infant deaths	1	1	2	-	-
Infantile Mortality Rate.	28.57	32.26	55.5	43	41
Tuberculosis death rate (all forms)	0.66	0.57	0.00	-	-

Comment on Statistics for the year.

- (I) The population has increased by approximately 453
- (II) The birth rate continues to fall.
- (III) The death rate is considerably lower.
- (IV) The infantile mortality rate is greater than in the previous year, but this is shown in ^{more marked} relief due to relatively low number of births within the Borough.
- (V) The Tuberculosis death rate (all forms) is Nil.

Infectious Diseases.

There was no serious outbreak of any infectious disease during the year 1946.

During the year the following cases of infectious diseases were notified.

	<u>Cases.</u>	<u>Admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Died.</u>
Measles	8	-	-
Acute Primary Pneumonia	4	-	-
Malaria	2	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-

Isolation Hospital Accommodation:-

Such cases as require isolation treatment, are cared for at Lowestoft Isolation Hospital, in return for a payment of a proportion of their annual charges. Cases of infectious disease are removed to hospital by the Lowestoft Isolation Hospital Ambulance.

During the year no case was found to be in need of isolation treatment.

Venereal Diseases:-

The treatment of these diseases is carried out at the V.D. Clinic Lowestoft and North Suffolk Hospital.

Ambulance Facilities:-

The Southwold Ambulance Section of the British Red Cross Society provides a motor ambulance available for all services required. This service continues to prove adequate and satisfactory.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Artificial immunisation against diphtheria was proceeded with at various sessions held within the school at Southwold. As in previous years, the greatest problem that has to be faced is that of gaining a high percentage of immunised children within the pre-school (0.5) population.

The following figures represent the total number of children immunised within the Borough, and the percentage immunised in the pre-school and school age groups.

Pre-school population (0.5) Mid 1946.	160
School population (5.15) " "	243
Percentage pre-school children immunised	25%
Percentage school children immunised	58%
Percentage all children immunised	44.9%

Having regard to the pre-school figures it must be remembered that this percentage is based upon the total number of pre-school children (0.5) residing within the Borough, and that children are not eligible for immunisation until after they have attained nine months of age. If this fact is taken into account, it will be obvious that the percentage of pre-school children immunised in proportion to the number of such children eligible for immunisation is considerably higher than the figure given, but not as yet, satisfactory.

As the immunity conferred by artificial immunisation becomes progressively weaker with the passage of time, it is desirable that a child who has been immunised in infancy should be given a reinforcing dose at the age of 4-5 years the age at which it first enters upon school life.

The incidence of diphtheria is greatest during the early years of school life, and it is therefore important to maintain a high degree of immunity at this period of a child's life.

During the year 1946 "booster", or reinforcing doses were given to school children in Southwold.

Diphtheria Antitoxin.

Diphtheria Antitoxin which is provided free of charge to general practitioners for therapeutic and prophylactic purposes, is stored at the Town Hall and is always available.

Tuberculosis.

At the beginning of the year 1946, the following cases were presently on the Tuberculosis Register.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pulmonary:-	5	2	7
Non-pulmonary:-	1	6	7
		<u>Total</u>	<u>14</u>

During the year 1 case (Non-pulmonary - Female) died and 2 male pulmonary cases were added by notification.

This leaves the following cases on the register at the end of the year 1946.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pulmonary:-	7	2	9
Non-pulmonary:-	1	5	6
		<u>Total</u>	<u>15</u>

This is an increase of one case over the figure for the previous year.

Hospital and sanatorium accommodation for cases of tuberculosis still remains inadequate. The waiting lists for all available beds necessitates undue delay in the admission of both pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases.

This lack of sanatorium accommodation is due in the first instance to lack of adequate nursing and domestic staff. In several instances beds are available, but the requisite staff is not.

Two cases received sanatorium treatment during the course of the year.

Infant Welfare Clinic.

At present the Borough possesses no infant welfare clinic.

Southwold Harbour.

The Port of Southwold has been closed to shipping since 1939.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health:- Alan A. Gilmour.
M.D. ChB. D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:- Mr. W.J. Goldfinch.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant.

9.7.47.

Alan Gilmour.

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough
of Southwold.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on
the Sanitary conditions in Southwold for the year 1946.

I took over the duties of Sanitary Inspector on October
1st 1946 and the following information is based upon my
observations during the last quarter of the year.

Housing.

In common with all parts of the country the Borough
is suffering from a housing shortage, which has been accentuated
by the large number of dwellings destroyed by enemy action.
Many of these war damaged houses have been repaired and other
reconstruction work is being done but progress is slow owing
to shortage of labour and materials.

It has been necessary to requisition some houses for
occupation by those in very urgent need of accommodation and all
properties suitable for this purpose have been dealt with.

The Council is erecting 40 new houses on the Sole Bay
Estate at Reydon also two flats and six bungalows for Aged
persons on a bombed site at Bartholomew Green.

No houses have been erected by private enterprise during
the year, all local builders being fully engaged on repairs to
war damaged property.

Generally the existing houses have been maintained in
a sanitary condition but work on improving and raising the
standard of accommodation has been delayed by labour and material
shortages.

Water Supply.

Water is provided from the mains of the Southwold Water
Co., and has been adequate for all requirements and of a high
standard of purity.


Sewerage.

The Borough is drained by a sewerage system which
discharges at the Disposal Works and thence into Buss Creek.
Minor repairs have been carried out to the sewers from time
to time and no serious cause for complaint has arisen.

The disposal Works are not of modern type and the degree
of purification effected is very slight. The effluent discharges
into a tidal creek and the high dilution thus afforded renders
a high standard of purification less essential than would be
the case in other circumstances.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

House Refuse is collected by a Contractor in a modern
dust proofed refuse collecting vehicle and is destroyed by
incineration at the Destructor Works on the outskirts of the Town.
No complaints whatever have been received and the work has been
done in a highly commendable manner.



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Meat and Food Inspection.

No slaughtering is carried out in the Borough. All homekilled meat being obtained from the Area Abattoir at Beccles where it is inspected and classified.

Several lots of tinned foods have had to be condemned, the cause in all cases being damaged tins.

Bakeries have been kept in a clean condition and no cause for complaint has arisen.

Factories and Workshops.

Factories and Workshops have been inspected from time to time and the proprietors have complied with all requirements made.

General.

The Borough has been maintained in a clean and sanitary condition throughout the year.

W.J. Goldfinch.

Sanitary Inspector.

